

Meeting of the Gambling Health Alliance

8th October 2019

Chair: Duncan Stephenson, Deputy Chief Executive of RSPH

In attendance:

- Meagan Levin, Royal British Legion
- Sophie Linington, Parentzone
- Stephen Sharman, UEL
- Chris Buttenshaw, CARE
- Victoria Sharman, RCN
- Chiara Marin, Fast Forward
- Matt Zarb-Cousin, Campaign for Fairer Gambling
- Justyn Larcombe
- Matthew Philpot, Healthy Stadia
- Carly Boyt, YGAM
- Andrew Taylor, ASA
- Katie Fry, CAB
- Gemma Bruce, Turning Point
- Alison Mather, Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs
- Jono Baggaley, PSHE Association
- John Coleby, Evangelical Alliance UK
- Aaron Mansfield, RSPH
- Niamh McDade, RSPH

Apologies: Michael Sheen, End High Cost Credit Alliance; Adele Duncan, Gordon Moody Association; Henrietta Bowden-Jones; Heather Wardle, LSHTM; Carolyn Harris MP; Ronnie Cowan MP; Adam Brimelow, NHS Providers; Shirley Cramer, RSPH.

Feedback from breakout discussion

- 1. Key policy areas for the GHA to consider and biggest challenges in tackling gambling related harm**

Gambling and Sports

- De-normalisation of gambling in sporting culture
- Gaming and gamification of gambling
- Improving awareness/ educating healthcare professionals and the wider public health workforce to assess for signs of gambling related harm
- Learning from international experience e.g. Italy – ban on football, Australia
- Learning from other public health interventions

Online

- Online gambling and gaming

- Loot boxes, Fifa packs, in app and in-game purchases
- Inconsistency in legislation – loot boxes aren't classed as gambling and therefore regulated.

Access to data

- Access to data from the Ministry of Defence
- To what extent are Commissioners requesting data on gambling related harms?

Narrative around gambling

- Responsible gambling including how the responsible gambling concept started as the 'responsible provision of gambling' and has now gradually shifted towards to the individual being responsible for their activity, in the process also implying that those experiencing gambling-related harms are at fault for experiencing harms.
- Language and the way that gambling is framed/ defined; the move away from discussing 'problem gambling' toward 'gambling related harm'

Regulation and the system

- Calls for a compulsory levy
- The role of Gamble Aware
- Make changes to the gambling system including structural reform
- The role of the gambling commission in commissioning healthcare services
- Gambling not labelled as this by gambling companies – e.g. the lottery should be called gambling
- Where should voluntary settlements sit – currently with industry, should be with HMT

Other areas

- The role of material/social inequalities in influencing someone's likelihood to gamble.
- The use of algorithms and how they could be used as a force for good
- How to better protect children and young people

2. Absent stakeholders who should be involved

- Local Government Association
- NHS organisations including NHS Providers and NHS Confed MH Network
- Government departments including: DCMS, DfE, DHSC, PHE (and equivalent in devolved nations)
- Debt charities including – StepChange, MAPS, Money & Mental Health Foundation
- BAME groups
- Howard League for Penal Reform
- More involvement from academics
- Parents of children affected by gambling harm
- Private debt management companies

- Financial Conduct Authority
- The Gambling Commission
- GAMCARE

3. Work plan

Based on the key policy areas for consideration identified in this meeting, it was agreed that RSPH will develop and share a member survey in order to prioritise the areas of focus for the group.

4. Next steps

Prospective member forms, confirmation of membership type and organisation logos to be sent to nmcdade@rsph.org.uk by COP 5 November 2019.

Presentation from Lloyds Bank to be organised (NM discuss with Justyn Larcombe)

Presentation from ASA to be organised (NM discuss with Andrew Taylor)

GHA website and Twitter to go live w/c 11 Nov 2019

Following the confirmation of members, RSPH will share a members' survey which will be used to inform the work plan of the GHA for the next year

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the group will be confirmed in the coming weeks.